

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: CHAIRMAN JOE BALYEAT, on January 16, 2009 at 9 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Joe Balyeat, Chairman (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jim Peterson (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Linda Keim, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 89, SB 135, SB 60, SB 86
1/7/2009

Executive Action: SB 86, SB 194, SB 84

HEARING ON SB 89

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:56 **SEN. MITCH TROPILA (D), SD 12**, opened the hearing on **SB 89**, Eliminate sunset for new worker training program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:50 Tony Preite, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

00:06:37 Jim Davison, President, Montana Economic Developer's Association (MEDA)

00:07:43 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:08:08 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

00:08:30 Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development Corporation

EXHIBIT(bus10a01)

00:09:50 Ed Buttrey, Entrepreneur

00:14:07 Dick King, President and CEO, Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation

EXHIBIT(bus10a02)

00:16:21 Gary Amestoy, Richland County Economic Development Corporation

00:16:59 Rhonda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Chambers of Commerce

00:17:39 Andy Poole, Deputy, Montana Department of Commerce

EXHIBIT(bus10a03)

EXHIBIT(bus10a04)

00:25:07 Brett Donnelly, Great Falls Development Authority

EXHIBIT(bus10a055)

00:26:18 Cynthia Schultz, Director, Great Falls International Airport

EXHIBIT(bus10a06)

00:32:22 Ed Bartlett, Attorney, Billings Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:33:03 Sen. Keane

00:33:18 Mr. Poole

00:34:05 Sen. Brown

00:34:38 Sen. Tropila
00:35:10 Sen. Squires
00:37:13 Mr. Buttrey
00:38:02 Sen. Joe Tropila
00:38:18 Sen. Mitch Tropila
00:38:34 Sen. Barkus
00:38:54 Mr. Preite
00:41:13 Chairman Balyeat
00:51:02 Mr. Poole
00:51:25 Sen. Keane
00:51:48 Chairman Balyeat

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:03 Sen. Mitch Tropila

HEARING ON SB 135

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:53:08 **SEN. CLIFF LARSEN (D), SD 50**, opened the hearing on **SB 135**, Revise insure Montana program.

[EXHIBIT\(bus10a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(bus10a08\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:56:44 John Mudd, Executive Counsel, State Auditor's Office
00:59:04 Jill Sark, Director, Insure Montana Program, State Auditor's Office
01:04:26 Christina Goe, Chief Legal Counsel, State Auditor's Office

01:08:09 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy left the room.
01:10:51 Sen. Jackson returned

01:12:17 Ramona Stuehm, Employer, Post Net
01:13:17 Riley Johnson, NFIB
01:16:03 Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana
01:17:05 Amy Gromolez, Billings Clinic
01:17:44 Darrin Engelent, Health Program Manager, Montana Retail Association

01:21:34 Chairman Balyeat left the room
01:21:36 Vice Chairman Jackson assumed the Chair

01:20:22 Bill Roberts, AARP Montana volunteer
[EXHIBIT\(bus10a09\)](#)

01:22:07 Todd Lovshin, Allegiance Companies

01:23:20 Chelsea Fagen, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:24:04 Sen. Barkus

01:24:51 John Mudd

01:26:08 Sen. Barkus

01:26:17 Sen. Tropila

01:26:27 Ms. Goe

Closing by Sponsor:

01:27:06 Sen. Larsen

01:27:45 Recess

01:36:25 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 60

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:36:40 **SEN. RON ERICKSON (D) , SD 47**, opened the hearing on **SB 60**, Annual market conduct exams and 5-year financial exams for state fund.

[EXHIBIT \(bus10a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus10a11\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:44:32 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurance Company of America

01:46:26 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association (AIA)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:48:05 Laurence Hubbard, Montana State Fund

02:00:46 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

02:02:33 Riley Johnson, NFIB

Informational Testimony:

02:03:20 John Mudd, Executive Counsel, State Auditor's Office

02:04:33 Kris Wilkensen, Fiscal Analyst

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:05:02 Sen. Squires
02:05:38 Ms. Wilkensen
02:06:13 Pat Murdo, Legislative Fiscal Division
02:06:45 Sen. Squires
02:07:27 Ms. Murdo
02:08:07 Sen. Squires
02:09:28 Mr. Hubbard
02:11:32 Sen. Steinbeisser
02:11:48 Mr. Hubbard
02:12:40 Sen. Squires

02:14:52 Chairman Balyeat returned

02:15:01 Mr. Hubbard
02:15:22 Vice Chair Jackson
02:16:24 Sen. Erickson
02:17:22 Vice Chair Jackson
02:17:45 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
02:18:12 Mr. Mudd
02:19:22 Sen. Balyeat
02:20:21 Vice Chair Jackson

Closing by Sponsor:

02:20:32 Sen. Erickson

HEARING ON SB 86

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:24:46 **SEN. JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA (D), SD 13**, opened the hearing on **SB 86**, Revise gambling laws.

[EXHIBIT \(bus10a12\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:26:39 Rick Ask, Gamma Control Division, Department of Justice
02:27:54 Mark Staples, Montana Tavern Association
02:28:49 Mark Eli, Big B Bingo, Billings

[EXHIBIT \(bus10a13\)](#)

02:30:06 Neil Peterson, Montana Gaming Industry Association
02:30:31 Sheryl Wood, Montana Gaming Division, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
02:31:48 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:32:42 Vice Chair Jackson

02:32:56 Mr. Eli

Closing by Sponsor:

02:33:22 Sen. Tropila

02:33:55 Chairman Balyeat re-assumed the Chair position.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 84

02:36:30 **Motion:** Sen. Tropila moved **SB 84 DO PASS.**

02:36:47 **Motion:** Sen. Keane moved **SB 84 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(bus10a14)

Discussion:

02:37:26 Ms. Murdo

02:40:51 Chairman Balyeat

02:41:29 Sen. Keane

02:41:48 Sen. Squires

02:42:49 Sen. Tropila

02:43:56 Sen. Jackson

02:44:31 Sen. Squires

02:45:15 Chairman Balyeat

02:43:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-2 by roll call vote; Sen. Jackson and Sen. Balyeat voted no. Sen. Barkus, Sen. Steinbeisser, and Sen. Peterson voted by proxy.

02:47:01 Sen. Keane moved **SB 84 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

02:47:21 Sen. Brown

02:47:56 Sen. Keane

02:48:36 Sen. Barkus entered the room.

02:48:37 Sen. Steinbeisser entered the room.

02:49:21 Sen. Squires

02:50:19 Sen. Jackson

02:51:32 Chairman Balyeat
02:52:17 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
02:52:43 Sen. Jackson
02:53:35 Chairman Balyeat
02:53:46 Sen. Squires
02:55:43 Chairman Balyeat
02:55:50 Sen. Keane

02:56:19 **Vote:** Motion on SB 84 carried unanimously by voice vote, 11-0. Sen. Peterson voted aye by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 194

02:57:43 Chairman Balyeat

02:57:49 **Motion:** Sen. Barkus **MOVED SB 194 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

02:58:03 Chairman Balyeat
02:59:44 Sen. Squires

03:02:51 **Vote:** Motion on SB 194 carried 7-4 by roll call vote. Sen. Keane, Sen. Squires, Sen. Tropila and Sen. Windy Boy voted no. Sen. Peterson voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 86

03:04:32 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Tropila **MOVED SB 86 DO PASS.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 11-0. Sen. Peterson voted by proxy.

03:05:03 Sen. Windy Boy
03:05:15 Chairman Balyeat

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:07 P.M.

LINDA KEIM, Secretary

lk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus10aad.pdf](#))